



The State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

Division of
Oil, Gas & Mining

ROBERT L. MORGAN
Executive Director

LOWELL P. BRAXTON
Division Director

OLENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

Representatives Present During the Inspection:

Company Johnny Pappas Sr. Environmental Engineer

Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070038
Inspection Type:	TECHNICAL
Inspection Date:	Tuesday, November 18, 2003
Start Date/Time:	11/18/2003 1:00:00 PM
End Date/Time:	11/18/2003 3:30:00 PM
Last Inspection:	

Inspector: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III

Weather: sunshine 40's clear skies

InspectionID Report Number: 102

Accepted by: dhaddock
11/25/2003

Permittee: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**

Operator: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**

Site: **WILLOW CREEK MINE**

Address: **847 NW HWY 191, HELPER UT 84526**

County: **CARBON**

Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**

Permit Status: **ACTIVE**

Current Acreages

14,670.00	Total Permitted
161.55	Total Disturbed
	Phase I
	Phase II
	Phase III

Mineral Ownership

- ☒ Federal
☐ State
☐ County
☒ Fee
☒ Other

Types of Operations

- ☐ Underground
☐ Surface
☐ Loadout
☐ Processing
☐ Reprocessing

Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments:

Mid-term review site visit to discuss water usage as it relates to the preservation of endangered fish species in the Colorado river drainage basin.

Inspector's Signature:

Date Monday, November 24, 2003

Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III

Inspector ID Number: 37

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

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REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - a. For COMPLETE inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check Not Applicable.
 - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	Evaluated	Not Applicable	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Signs and Markers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Topsoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disposal of Excess Spoil, Fills, Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Noncoal Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Slides and Other Damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Contemporaneous Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Backfilling And Grading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Subsidence Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Cessation of Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: Drainage Controls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Other Transportation Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Air Quality Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Bonding and Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues

The initial Willow Creek Mine permit was issued in April 1995. During active mining the use of 730 acre/feet/annually was projected. Mr. Pappas provided the documentation to show that based on this figure, a "depletion fee" was paid to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required by the USFWS 1987 Recovery Implementation Program. (Memorandum to Mr. Gregory K. Reed, reclamation and Enforcement, OSM, from Utah Field Supervisor, USFWS, SLC, dated October 22, 1996).

The effects of temporary cessation and recent reclamation on water usage were discussed with the Permittee. Current measurements of river water usage are about 2.0 acre/feet annually. Most of the river water used between 01/03/03 to 11/18/03 (647,760 gallons) was applied to the ground surface for dust control in the Castle Gate and Crandall Canyon areas. Note: 1 ac/ft = 326,000 gallons.

During the development of the D Northeast Mains (1997), a large artesian inflow originated from abandoned surface well MC-090. During the inflow, the Willow Creek mine discharged approximately 700 gpm to the Price River and enlarged Pond #1 to hold some of the outflow. A total of 2 billion gallons was pumped out of the mine. Subsequent research into alternatives for disposal of in-mine water was summarized in a paper entitled, "Potential for Water Storage in Abandoned Mine Workings in the Castlegate Area, Carbon Co. Utah," dated June 15, 1999. This 1999 report was provided as part of the 2002 Annual Report filed with the Division. The Executive Summary of this report indicates that between 0.720 and 2.490 billion gallons of water could be stored underground west of State Hwy 6. However, all work on this topic has been suspended since mining cessation. Note: This report provides maps of all the abandoned underground workings in the Castle gate area. The Permittee has this information available electronically.

Projections for postmining hydrogeologic conditions are presented in Exhibit 10 "Hydrologic Conditions at the Willow Creek Mine at Mine Closure." Exhibit 10 describes an inflow to the D Seam of 100 gpm that will reduce to 25 gpm overtime as the abandoned workings fill up.

Surface storage of water includes the 350,000 gallon water storage tank and five remaining sediment ponds: Ponds 1, 2, 11, 12A&12B, and 13 (ponds 14 and 15 were removed with the Crandall Canyon reclamation this Fall 2003). The water level in all the ponds was well below the discharge, but all the ponds contained some water on the date of this site visit. Currently, there are six surface sites and five ponds being monitored. The monitoring locations are shown on the Regional Hydrology and

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Monitoring Station location Map 15 and listed in Table 4.7-1.

The riparian area along Willow Creek was observed. The water was running clear and the vegetation was well established.